



September, 2004

Dear Fellow Miner,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for all you do for this country. All of us benefit from the coal you produce when we turn on our lights, heat our houses and drive on our roads.

I know I don't have to tell you that what you do can be dangerous especially when production is at an all time high. Now is the time to take extra safety precautions and stay focused.

Over the last 60 days, there have been three roof falls fatalities - two of those occurred during pillar extraction or retreat mining - compared to two miners who lost their lives in roof falls last year.

Here are some safety tips I encourage you to review:

- Follow safety procedures; watch out for your co-workers and make required examinations of mine conditions and equipment.
- Make fellow miners and employers aware of unsafe conditions in the mines or with equipment or machinery.
- Take younger more inexperienced miners "under your wings" and help them understand the importance of practicing safe mining.
- Make sure all approved plans, variances, waivers, and other relevant information are followed.

Properly following safety rules may save your life and your fellow miners.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this message and to let you know that we at the Mine Safety and Health Administration remain committed to seeing you return to your families safely and healthy after every shift.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave D. Lauriski".

Dave D. Lauriski
Assistant Secretary of Labor
for Mine Safety and Health